CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical terminal, comprising:

a first contact member having an outer pressure contacting end portion for pressure engaging a first electrical device and an enlarged inner end portion;

a second contact member having an outer pressure contacting end portion for pressure engaging a second electrical device and an enlarged inner end portion;

a sleeve including

a through hole for slidably receiving the inner end portions of the first and second contact members,

said through hole having a first open end through which the pressure contacting end portion of the first contact member projects and a second open end through which the pressure contacting end portion of the second contact member projects,

restricted stops at the first and second open ends of the through hole for abutting the enlarged inner ends of the contact members to define outer limit positions of the pressure contacting end portions of the contact members, and

an outside diameter of the sleeve at a first end thereof being smaller than an outside diameter of the sleeve at a second end thereof; and

a biasing member in the through hole of the housing to resiliently bias the contact members in opposite directions.

2. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein said sleeve includes an intermediate section between said first and second ends of the sleeve, the intermediate section having an outside diameter larger than the diameter of the first end but smaller than the diameter of the second end of the sleeve.

3. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein said restricted stops comprise inwardly turned flanges of the sleeve at said first and second open ends thereof.

4. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein the outer pressure contacting end portion of said first contact member is dome shaped to present a rounded convex contact surface for engaging the first electrical device.

5. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein the outer pressure contacting end portion of said second contact member is dome shaped to present a rounded convex contact surface for engaging the second electrical device.

6. The electrical terminal of claim 5 wherein the outer pressure contacting end portion of said first contact member is dome shaped to present a rounded convex contact surface for engaging the first electrical device.

7. In combination with the electrical terminal of claim 1, said first electrical device including a housing having a mounting cavity with a fixed contact at a base of the cavity, said sleeve being mounted in the cavity with the smaller diameter first end of the sleeve projecting into the cavity and the larger diameter second end of the sleeve projecting outside the cavity, and with the pressure contacting end portion of the first contact member resiliently biasingly engaging the fixed contact at the base of the cavity.

8. The combination of claim 7 wherein said sleeve includes an intermediate section between said first and second ends of the sleeve, the intermediate section having an outside diameter larger than the diameter of the first end but smaller than the diameter of the second end of the sleeve.

9. The combination of claim 8 wherein said intermediate section of the sleeve bears against inside walls of said mounting cavity, leaving the smaller diameter first end of the sleeve spaced inwardly of the inside walls of the cavity.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 17 May 2005 (17.05.05);
original claims 2 and 8 cancelled; original claims 1, 3-7 and 9 amended.]

1. An electrical terminal (30), comprising:

a first contact member (34) having an outer pressure contacting end portion (34a) for pressure engaging a first electrical device (56) and an enlarged inner end portion (34b);

a second contact member (36) having an outer pressure contacting end (36a) portion for pressure engaging a second electrical device and an enlarged inner end portion (36b);

a sleeve (32) having a constant inner diameter and an outside diameter (d1) at a first end (50) thereof being smaller than an outside diameter (d3) at a second end (52) thereof and including an intermediate section (54) between said first and second ends (50,52) of the sleeve, the intermediate section having an outside diameter (d2) larger than the diameter of the first end of the sleeve but smaller than the diameter of the second end of the sleeve, the wall thickness at the first end (50) being thinner than the wall thickness at the second end (52) whereby a riveting or bend procedure at the first end can be facilitated by the thinness of the wall of the smaller diameter end (50);

a through hole (40) for slidably receiving the inner end portions of the first and second contact members;

said through hole having a first open end (42) through which the pressure contacting end portion of the first contact member projects and a second open end (44) through which the pressure contacting end portion of the second contact member projects;

restricted stops (46,48) at the first and second open ends of the through hole for abutting the enlarged inner ends of the contact members to define outer limit positions of the pressure contacting end portions of the contact members; and

a biasing member (38) in the through hole of the housing to resiliently bias the contact members in opposite directions.

3. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein said restricted stops comprise inwardly turned flanges (46,48) of the sleeve (32) at said first and second open ends (42,44) thereof.

4. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein the outer pressure contacting end portion (34a) of said first contact member (34) is dome shaped to present a rounded convex contact surface for engaging the first electrical device.

5. The electrical terminal of claim 1 wherein the outer pressure contacting end portion (36a) of said second contact member (36) is dome shaped to present a rounded convex contact surface for engaging the second electrical device.

6. The electrical terminal of claim 5 wherein the outer pressure contacting end portion (34a) of said first contact member (34) is dome shaped to present a rounded convex contact surface for engaging the first electrical device.

7. In combination with the electrical terminal of claim 1, said first electrical device (56) including a housing (58) having a mounting cavity (60) with a fixed contact (62) at a base (64) of the cavity, said sleeve (32) being mounted in the cavity with the smaller diameter first end (50) of the sleeve projecting into the cavity and the larger diameter second end (52) of the sleeve projecting outside the cavity, and with the pressure contacting end portion (34a) of the first contact member (34) resiliently biasingly engaging the fixed contact at the base of the cavity.

9. The combination of claim 7 wherein said intermediate section (54) of the sleeve (32) bears against inside walls of said mounting cavity (60), leaving the smaller diameter first end (50) of the sleeve spaced inwardly of the inside walls of the cavity.